

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

God creates humans complete with their senses, feeling and perfect body being. As a human, we are grateful having that god sends particularly a feeling of something. Children also have the same feeling like adult people. They have sensitively felt to everything. Oftentimes, they felt abusive from their parent like verbal abuse to their children. Verbal abuse on children is yelling on them with demeaning language. Children who suffer from verbal abuse can know the pain of those words. If their parents are stressed, they might be showing that irritation on their children, but remember that this makes their children lose the confidence on themselves. They may even unable to recognize their own talents and unable to adapt the challenges of life.

Verbal abuse is best described as an ongoing emotional environment organized by the abuser for the purpose control. Verbal abuse may occur to a person of any gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, age, or size. Typically, verbal abuse increases in intensity over time and often escalates into physical abuse as well. After exposure to verbal abuse, victims may fall into clinical

depression and/ or post traumatic stress disorder. Verbal abuse also reflected in Jody Picoult's novel *MY SISTER'S KEEPER*.

As one of Jodi Picoult's novel, *My Sister's Keeper* is very interesting to read. With a diversity of main character on this novel make reader attracted to read more and more. *My Sister's Keeper* was published in America in 2004 by Atria books a division of Simon and Schuster Inc. It was written by Jodi Picoult who was born on May 10, 1966, in Long Island New York. She studied writing at Princeton University, and graduate in 1987. She is married to Tim Van leer. They have three children namely Sammy, Kyle, and Jake. They live in Hanover, New Hampshire. Picoult wrote her first story, "The Lobster which Misunderstood," when she was five. While at Princeton, she published two stories in *Seventeen* magazines. She wrote her first novel, *Songs of the Humpback Whale*, while she was pregnant with her first child, and published it in 1992. Picoult's novels usually deal with ethical issues and are told from a variety of viewpoints, with each chapter written in a different character's voice. Picoult uses this technique to show multiple sides of a situation and underscore areas of moral ambiguity.

She wrote this novel based on her views about a couple in America that successfully conceived a sibling that was a bone marrow match for his older sister, a girl suffering from a rare form of leukemia. His cord blood cells were given to the sister, who still in remission. When she started to look more deeply at the family dynamics and how stem cell research might cause an impact, she came up

the story of the Fitzgerald. She personally is pro stem-cell research. All character to this novel are fictitious and resemblance to real person, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

My Sister's Keeper is written by Jody Picoult, while the story of this novel tells about an anxiety and despair of major character of this novel. Sara Fitzgerald's daughter Kate is just two years old when she is diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. Reeling with the helpless shock of it, Sara knows she will do anything whatever it takes to save her child. Then the test results come back time and again to show that no one in their family is a match for Kate. If they do not find a donor for the crucial bone marrow transplant she needs, there is only one option: creating another baby, specially designed to save her sister. For Sara, it seems the ideal solution. Not only does Kate live, but she gets a beautiful new daughter, Anna. Until the moment Anna hands Sara the papers that will rock her whole world. Because, aged thirteen, Anna decided that she doesn't want to help Kate live anymore. She is suing her parents for rights to her own body.

On this novel the writer found verbal abuses from Sara Fitzgerald to her daughter Anna Fitzgerald. Considering the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing *My Sister's Keeper* novel by semiotic approach, because entitled VERBAL ABUSES IN KIDNEY DONOR REFLECTED IN JODY PICOULT'S NOVEL *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* (2008): SEMIOTIC APPROACH

B. Literature Review

The *My Sister's Keeper* novel is an interesting novel included many symbols in there that can be analyzed through semiotic approach. After looking for Literature Reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer found the research concerning with *My Sister's Keeper* novel done by other writers.

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The first research paper was done by Ratnasari (UMS, 2010) entitled STRUGGLE FOR RIGHT IN JODY PICOULT *MY SISTER'S KEEPER*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH. It research done in order to shows that Anna personality changes from weak girl into strong girl to struggle to get her right. The second previous research was done by Alwafa (UMS, 2011) entitled PERSONALITY OF ANNA IN JODY PICOULTS *MY SISTER'S KEEPER*: A PSYCHOANALITIC APPROACH. This research was done in order to find out personality of Anna of the novel being researched.

The different of this study and two previous studies are in the theme. The researcher uses the different perspectives. Here, the researcher presents the study of verbal abuse in *Jody Picoult's* novel using a semiotic approach. The writer uses *My Sister's Keeper* novel by Jody Picoult as the data source to be analyzed

C. Limitation of the Study

To carry out of this study, the writer needs to limit the study. The writer only analyzes the verbal abuse of main character Anna Fitzgerald which appears using semiotic approach.

D. Problem Statement

From the background of the study, the writer would like to state the problem of the study as “How is verbal abuse occurs to Anna Fitzgerald reflected in Jody Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper*?”

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze the novel based on the semiotic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of the semiotic approach in the literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

To get better understanding about the novel, especially the verbal abuse in kidney donor reflected of *My Sister's Keeper* novel.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Research

In this research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative method.

2. Objective of Research

The object of this study is *My Sister's Keeper* Novel. This novel is written by Jody Picoult, this novel published by Hodder & Stroughton.

3. Data and Data Source

In this research the writer classifies the data source into two categories namely primary and secondary data sources

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of this study is *My Sister's Keeper* novel written by Jody Picoult, this novel published by Hodder & Stroughton..

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which related to primary data such as biography of the wirter, criticism in relation to the problem and material related to the study picking up from books or internet.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

In this case the writer uses two techniques of collecting data:

a. Observation

The data are taken by reading the novel of *My Sister's Keeper* in order to understand about the novel.

b. Library Research

The data are collected from the books that related to the topic.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis. The analysis is start from the author and his work and then the structural analysis of the work and finally the semiotic of the literary.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer device this research paper into five parts. They are Chapter I is Introduction consisting Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the study and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It deals with Notion of Verbal Abuse, Notion of Semiotic and Principles in Semiology. Chapter III is Structural Analysis. It consist Structural Element of Novel and Discussion. Chapter IV is Semiotic Analysis. It deals with The Denotative Level and The Connotative Level. Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. After Chapter V the writer presents, bibliography and appendix.